

TWO NEW SKINKS FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

Wilmer W. Tanner¹

Among the reptiles secured in the state of Durango by the University of Kansas field survey under the direction of Dr. Rollin Baker, for the summer of 1955, are specimens belonging to two species of the genus *Eumeces*. Four specimens of *Eumeces lynxe* Wiegmann were taken approximately 30 miles east of El Salto, and seven specimens of *Eumeces brevirostris* Gunther were collected 9-15 miles southwest of El Salto. Both species were taken during the last week of June, while the area was still relatively dry. We worked these same areas during the first week of September (rainy season) 1957, without finding a single skink. Although *E. brevirostris* has been taken previously in southern Durango (Coyote), the discovery of *E. lynxe* is a substantial range extension for this species.

A careful examination of these specimens has demonstrated a modification of several characteristics which marks them as distinct geographic subspecies.

Eumeces lynxe durangoensis, n. subsp.

Fig. 1

Type.—An adult female, KU 044737, taken approximately 30 miles east of El Salto, Durango, Mexico. Collected by C. M. Fugler, June 30, 1955.

Paratypes.—KU 044734-5 topotypes and KU 044736 taken approximately 10 miles east of El Salto, Durango.

All types are in the vertebrate collection of the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History.

Diagnosis.—A moderate to small form with the tail approximately 60 per cent of the total length. Median stripe extending from the shoulders to the frontal plate where it terminates without bifurcating. Lateral stripe absent and dorsolateral stripe distinct anteriorly but becoming faint at middle of body and obsolete posteriorly. Seven superciliaries, the anterior one in broad contact with the prefrontal, frontonasal nearly as long as wide and the postloreal noticeably longer than high.

Description of type.—Rostral normal, in broad contact with the first supralabials, nasals, and internasals; two internasals followed by a frontonasal slightly wider than long and in wide contact with the frontal; prefrontals larger than internasals and in contact with both loreals, first superciliaries, first supraoculars, frontonasal and frontal; four supraoculars, second largest; seven superciliaries, first and seventh largest, first in broad contact with prefrontal, seventh higher than long, and forming a broad contact with fourth supraocular; frontal large, widest anteriorly, rounded posteriorly and in contact with the first three supraoculars; frontoparietal smaller than interparietal and in broad contact; parietals large, nearly enclosing the smaller interparietal; nasal elongate, divided and with the nostril near its middle; postnasal absent; anterior loreal higher than long.

1. Contribution No. 162, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University,

clearly visible from dorsum; posterior loreal longer than high, narrowly in contact with second supralabial and widely separated from the fourth; two subpreoculars, upper twice the size of lower; three preoculars, first large, third very small; three subpostoculars, third largest, first smallest, two small subequal postoculars; primary temporal in broad contact with third presubocular and lower secondary

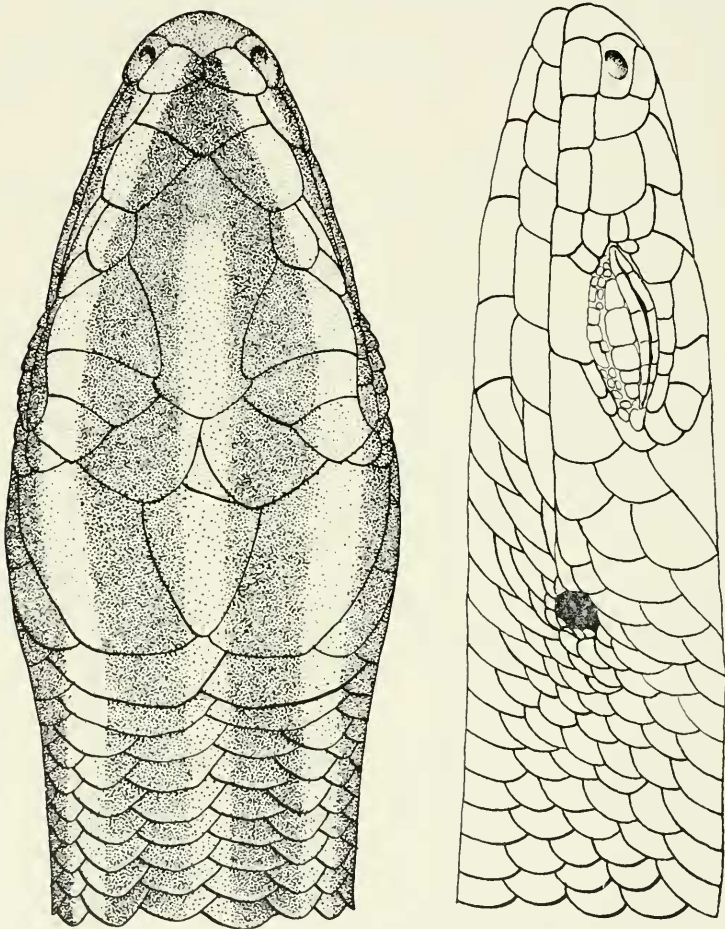


Fig. 1. Dorsal and lateral head view of type, showing scale and color patterns in *Eumeces l. durangoensis*.

temporal, equal in size to latter; upper secondary temporal large, twice size of primary scute, and widely separated from seventh supralabial; one high narrow tertiary temporal, separated from auricular boarder by a small scale, auricular lobules absent; seven supralabials, sixth distinctly larger than seventh, fourth smallest;

one narrow high postlabial separated from auricular opening by a pair of small secondary postlabials; two pair of nuchals, anterior pair distinctly longer. Mental large, extending to middle of first supralabial; one postmental and three pair of chinshields, followed by an elongate post-genial, six lower labials, sixth longest.

Dorsal scales between parietals and base of tail, 62; ventrals, 48; scale rows at middle of body, 24; lamellar formula of fingers: 5 7 8 10 6, of toes: 5 7 10 12 8; three enlarged papillated scutes border the heel.

Ear opening small nearly round and approximately equal distance from eye, as eye to snout; length of eye less than distance from eye to nostril; adpressed legs separated by 16 scales; total length 132 mm; snout to vent 53 mm.

Color and Color pattern.—Ground color above a brownish olive from the shoulders posteriorly, darker brown anteriorly and with a series of seven light and dark longitudinal stripes extending from head onto body; tail unstriped; median stripe straight, extending from approximately middle of frontal posteriorly on inner edge of each median scale row to the seventeenth scale of each row where it is no longer distinct; anterior bifurcation completely lacking; between the dorsolateral and medial stripes on the head a dark brown stripe extends onto body, where it becomes lighter in its middle, producing, for a short distance, dark margins for both the medial and dorsolateral light stripes; dorsolateral stripes extending from rostral posteriorly across the supraoculars and onto the second, and second and third scale rows, rapidly fading posterior to the shoulders to blend with the brownish-olive area between the dark lateral stripes; extending from the nasal along the side of head and to the tail along the fourth and fifth scale rows is a dark brown stripe, between the legs its ventral edge fades until a blend with the lighter ventral color occurs; immediately posterior to the ear and extending to the front leg is the faded indistinct lateral stripe; lateral stripe absent between legs; gular, throat and chest cream colored; abdomen bluish-gray.

Range.—Known only from the mountains east of El Salto, Durango, Mexico.

Remarks.—A comparison of the *durangoensis* series with data gathered from museum specimens and with a typical *I. lynxe* (BYU 651) from Jacala, Hidalgo, indicates that the new subspecies is more closely related to *I. lynxe* than to *I. furcirostris*, but is distinct from both in lacking the anterior bifurcation of the median stripe, as well as a distinct lateral stripe and in having an overall fading of the longitudinal stripe from anterior to posterior. Also, the sixth supralabial is equal to or distinctly larger than the seventh.

The paratypes are similar to the type in every respect. In size the type is the largest at 53 mm and the smallest paratype is 47 mm from snout to vent.

Eumeces brevirostris bilineatus, n. subsp.

Fig. 2

Type.—An adult male, KU 044732, taken approximately 10

miles southwest of El Salto, Durango, Mexico. Collected by C. M. Fugler, June 28, 1955.

Paratypes.—KU 044728, 044730-1, 9 miles SW El Salto; KU 044726, 044729, topotypes; KU 044727, 15 miles SW El Salto; CNHM 1506 (3) Coyote, Durango; USNM 64666, Sierra de Jaunocatlan, La Laguna, Jalisco; MMZ 117756, Mojarachic, Chihuahua, Mexico

All types are in the vertebrate collections of the University or Museum indicated above.

Diagnosis.²—Dorsolateral stripe distinct from rostral to the base of the tail. Lateral stripe absent and with the lighter ventral color

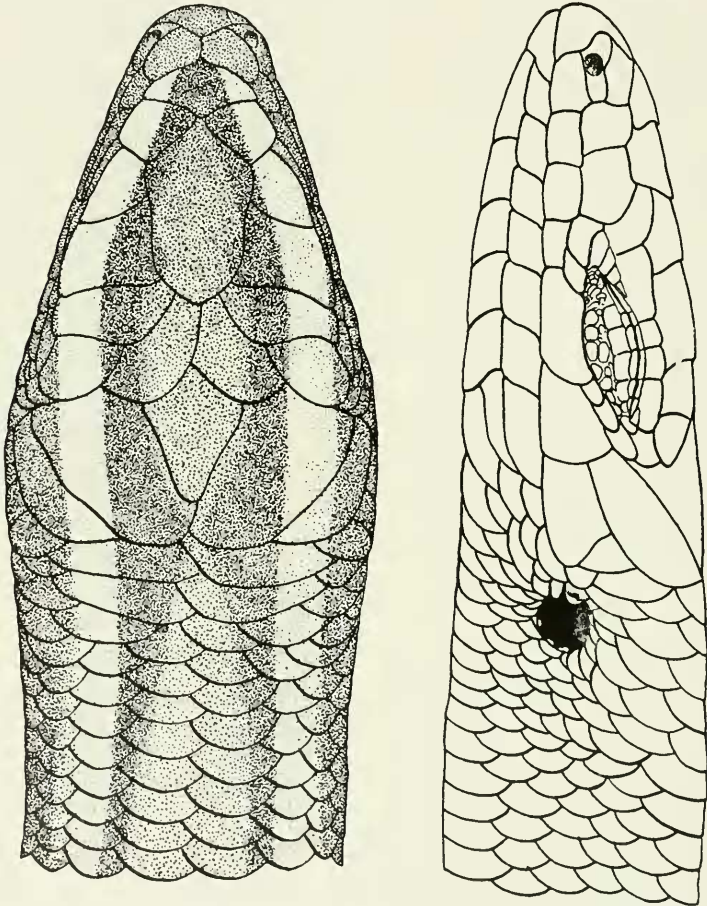


Fig. 2. Dorsal and lateral head view of type, showing scale and color patterns in *Eumeces brevisrostris bilineatus*.

2. Richard G. Zweifel (Herpetologica 10:145) reports a series of fifteen specimens from Durango and Chihuahua. The data presented does not indicate any variation from that obtained from the type series.

blending with the lower edge of the lateral dark stripe. The seventh supralabial and upper secondary temporal very large and in broad contact. Primary temporal or lower secondary temporal missing and when present small. Interparietal small, deeply enclosed by the parietals and widely separated from the frontal. The latter scute is large and in narrow to wide contact with the frontonasal which is nearly twice as wide as long. Adpressed legs are separated by 2-10 scales in adults.

Description of type.—Rostral normal and moderate in size; internasals in broad contact medially; frontonasal nearly twice as wide as long; prefrontals normal in size, narrowly divided medially by the frontal, first supraocular and first superciliary in broad contact with its posterior margin; four supraoculars, second largest; frontal large, rounded posteriorly and in contact with first three supraoculars; frontoparietals large, in wide contact medially; interparietal small, approximately equal to one frontoparietal, deeply enclosed by the greatly enlarged parietals; two pair of nuchals, anterior pair distinctly larger. Nasal elongate and divided, anterior part larger, nostril mostly posterior of middle; two loreals, anterior half size of posterior, and higher; two presuboculars, upper twice size of lower, two right side and three preoculars left side, first largest; five superciliaries right side and six left side, first, second and last largest in order given; three postsuboculars, upper largest; two postoculars; primary temporal absent; upper secondary greatly enlarged and in broad contact with sixth and seventh supralabials; lower secondary temporal small, higher than long; tertiary temporal equal in size to lower secondary, and separated from ear opening by one scale; seven supralabials, seventh largest; two postlabials between seventh labial and lower secondary temporal and ear opening; three ear lobules, middle one largest. Mental moderate, extending to middle of first supralabial; postmental large, twice size of mental; three pair of large chinshields followed by an elongate postgenial.

Longitudinal scale rows at middle of body 24; dorsals 57; ventrals 43; lamellar formula of fingers 5 7 9 10 7, of toes 5 8 10 11 9. Ear opening moderate in size, round and approximately 4 mm from posterior corner of eye; anterior corner of eye 3.5 mm from snout; length of eye distinctly less than distance from eye to nostril; adpressed legs separated by three scales; total length 118 mm; snout to vent 54 mm.

Color and Color Pattern.—Dorsum a brownish olive between legs, anterior to shoulder darker, becoming dark brown on head; dorsolateral stripes distinct from frontonasal to base of tail, crossing on each side the supraoculars, and extending onto second, second and third, third, and third and fourth scale rows between nuchals and tail; stripes with dark inner margins from shoulders to head; a dark brown stripe extends from nasal along lateral parts of head and body to tail; between legs it occupies all of fifth and half of each adjoining row; lateral stripe absent; ventral color a uniform bluish-grey be-

tween the seventh scale rows; tail a dark bluish washed with grey; throat and chest lighter.

Range.—Known from the high mountains (9000-8000 ft.) west and south of El Salto. Durango; from La Laguna, Jalisco, and from Mojarachic, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Remarks.—Specimens belonging to the type series are uniform in most characters. All have 24 scale rows, 6-6 infralabials, and lack the post nasal. The dorsals range from 56 to 60 and the ventrals from 40 to 45. In one paratype the supralabials are 8-8, in a second 7-8, all others have a 7-7 formula. The frontonasal is in contact with the frontal in nine of the twelve types, and the superciliaries are 6-6 in all save one specimen with a 5-6 formula.

The color pattern of the type series is uniform, with the dorso-lateral stripes distinct to the tail but less obvious on the posterior of the body. In contrast to some species, in which a fading also occurs on the body, *b. bilineatus* has a gradual intensification of the dorso-lateral stripe on the thighs and the base of the tail before blending with the general color.

The ovoviviparous type of reproduction is also indicated inasmuch as two fully developed embryos are present in the oviducts of specimen No. KU 044727.

Eumeces brevirostris bilineatus is seemingly closely related to *Eumeces indubitus* and *dugesii*, as well as typical *brevirostris*. In the head scalation *bilineatus* appears to be more nearly like *indubitus* than *brevirostris*. As I have examined the limited material and data available to me and have compared it with the detailed descriptions given by Taylor (1935 University of Kansas, Sci. Bull. 36:457-489, pls 41, 42, 43). I get the feeling that we are dealing here with a wide spread species (*brevirostris*) and a series of four subspecies (*dugesii*, *indubitus*, *bilineatus*) and perhaps others when the data is more complete.

I am indebted to Dr. E. R. Hall and Mr. John M. Leglar for permitting me to examine the type series from the University of Kansas Natural History Museum; to the late Dr. Karl P. Schmidt and Dr. Doris M. Cochran for the privilege of examining certain materials while at the Chicago and U.S. National Museums, and to Dr. Norman Hartweg for a loan of specimens from the Michigan Museum of Zoology.